

Top of the Hill

Holiday Edition

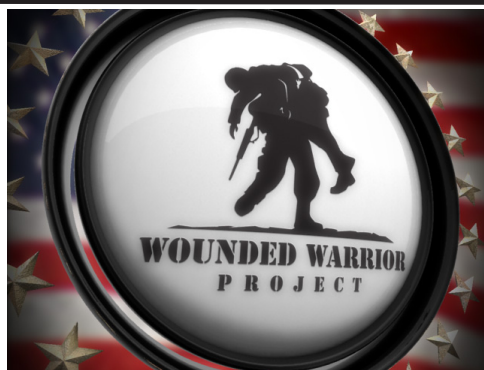
MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205
10 DECEMBER 2013 VOL. XIX, NO. 2

'Tis the Season for Thinking of Others

Wounded Warrior Project

By Cole Deal

The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization helping former soldiers who have been wounded in combat and their families. It was created after the tragic events of 9/11 and has grown into a widely known organization. It is supported by many organizations, including the NFL's Salute to Service. Wounded Warrior bases all its services on five core values: fun, integrity, loyalty, innovation, and service. Their goal is to get these wounded warriors back on their feet. Two ways they raise money are by donations and runs to support these wounded families. The money goes toward helping the soldiers and their families receive mental and physical treatment for the wounded



warriors.

MBA's involvement with the Wounded Warrior Project is by raising money through a two to three week advisory challenge. Miles Curry has led this drive for the last three years. Mr. Boysen's advisory won last year's advisory challenge, but they will not be able to keep the prize. Mr. Gioia's advisory won this year's challenge, making a final week run to win by raising \$2,000. Mr. Boysen will have to hand the helmet to Mr. Gioia.

In addition to advisory challenges, MBA also holds bake sales and wristband sales that go toward the donation process. This year was MBA's third year of doing this drive, and it has continued to

grow each year. MBA raised over \$10,000 this year for the project, for a total of over \$35,000 in donations for the Warrior Project since 2011. We thank Miles Curry for bringing awareness of this organization to MBA.

We also want to thank all the soldiers for their service to our country and to support the wounded, their families, and those on active duty.

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ON THE HILL

Fruit for Sale!

By Adric W. Kimbrough, Jr.

Tangelos, oranges, and grapefruits—what do they have to do with being a Gentlemen, a Scholar, and an Athlete? The Inaugural Holiday Fruit Sale of the Parent Alliance Group (PAG), one of the MBA parent organizations, has shown us that fruit can help us build strong healthy bodies, but also raise funds to provide professional development workshops for the students of MBA to build us into strong men. The official announcement of the sale of tangelos, oranges, and grapefruit came out from Mr. Will Norton on October 23. The sale lasted through November 15. The big incentive for the sale was a first prize of a PS4, a second place prize of a \$100 gift card, and a third place prize of three



Titan game tickets.

The fruit sale was a huge success. It exceeded all expectations. The MBA community purchased over \$15,000 - or 8,500 pounds of fruit. The money raised from the sale will support life-skill educational events, including a public speaking workshop, learning how to cook in college, golf clinics for the recreational golfer, etiquette courses, how to do laundry, and cultural and diversity seminars. The purpose of the programs and

workshops is to help MBA students to learn skills, that will benefit them outside of the classroom for a lifetime. The first event was a Public Speaking Workshop held Saturday, December 7th at 7:45 am in Pfeffer.

The award-winning guest speaker was Clint Boyd, who has a unique method to work with the boys to improve public speaking and effective presentations skills. Participants created a 30-minute commercial.

Congratulations to the top-sellers for their hard work. Winners of the fundraiser were 1st place - Timothy Buchanan, 2nd place - D'On Coofer, and 3rd place went to Kanyo Offodile.



Congratulations to Mrs. Roberts' advisory for winning the schoolwide advisory challenge for the most money raised for Juvenile Diabetes.

ON THE HILL

Don't Be Hard-Headed

By Ben Evans

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that is caused by a blow to the head and can change the way your brain works. A concussion can also be caused from a blow to the body that makes the head and brain move back and forth rapidly. Most people with a concussion recover quickly, but for some, the effects and symptoms linger for weeks, months, and sometimes even years. If you have had a concussion in the past, you are at risk for another one, and your recovery time might be longer than the first one. There are many symptoms of a concussion; some of them are headaches, difficulty thinking clearly, anxiety, trouble sleeping, and blurry vision. If you or anyone you know has any of the symptoms listed or any other odd symptoms, see a doctor or specialist. If you do end up getting a concussion, it is very important that you listen to your doctor. The best thing for concussion recovery



<http://eaglesfaithful.com/concussion-crises/>

is rest and avoiding anything that stimulates your brain like loud music, computer screens, even reading and doing homework. If you have a concussion, do not try to do all of your homework every night because you will not get any better, and your teachers will work with you on when you can turn in your work.

Concussions can occur in any sport, but the sports with the highest concussion rates are football, ice hockey, and lacrosse. A great example of memory loss from concussions is Brett Favre. He didn't remember his daughter playing soccer and was scared by this fact. Lastly, be aware of any symptoms you may have because concussions are not something to play around with and be safe.



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ON THE HILL

Exam Tips

By Joseph Hatcher



As every MBA student knows, semester exams are very soon. Current eighth graders remember the panic and cramming of their first exams, and the seventh graders have no idea what to expect. The greatest fear in every seventh grader's heart is IPS. It does not matter which teacher, IPS is a panic-inducing subject. The only real advice for the IPS semester exam is to know EVERY formula-- ALL OF THEM. That is the best advice I can give for science. Vocabulary is also terrorizing. One hundred fancy words can be very intimidating, and my only advice is to force yourself to sit down and read the vocabulary book. Better yet, read the words carefully and frequently, allowing them to brand themselves into your brain. Literature is fairly easy for most students. How can anyone forget the creepy "Tell Tale Heart" or the three ghosts of Christmas? Studying for the math midterm is much like studying for the IPS exam; just know your formulas. The best advice anyone can give is just do not wing it. I know you want to play *Battlefield 4* but it can wait, and *Call of Duty: Ghosts* is not worth a bad grade on a midterm.



Above, students display admirable exam skills: precision, concentration, and passion.

Below, students beg to be sent to the honor council by using technology and collaborating.



EXAM SCHEDULE

***Tuesday:
History***

***Wednesday:
Science***

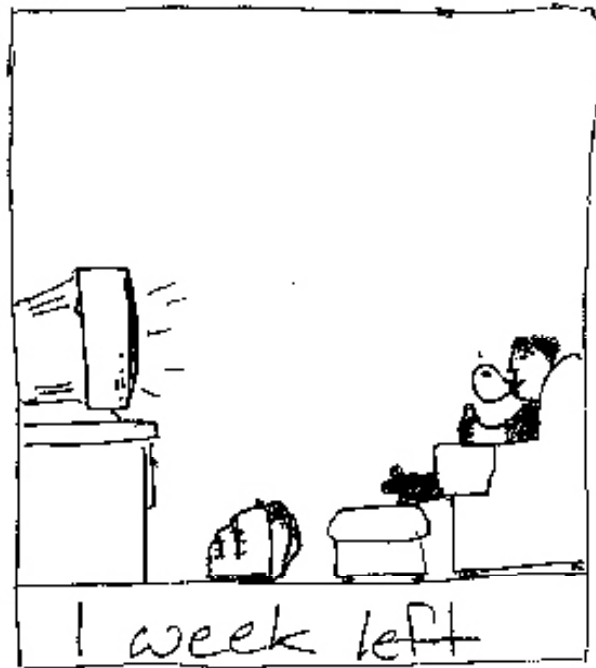
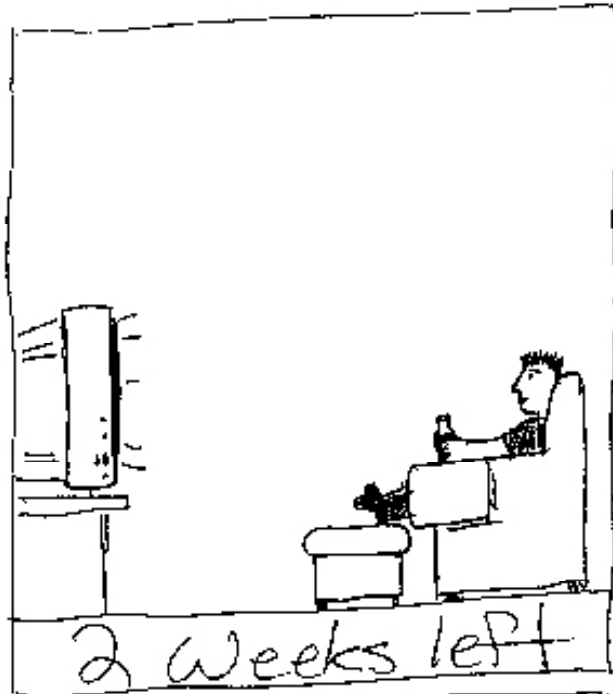
***Thursday:
Math***

***Friday:
English***

***Monday:
Latin I and
Grammar/Vocabulary***



ON THE HILL



EXAM REVIEW

Methods of a MBA Microbe

FEATURES

Release the Amp!

By Alex Bulgarino

The new Amp, or the BRT, proposal has created many heated debates about whether or not this new mode of transportation should be incorporated into our city. There are many reasons the Amp should be integrated. First, the Amp will lessen traffic especially on West End as Mike Schatzlein, president and CEO of Saint Thomas Health and leader of the Pro Amp Coalition, describes it: "What is so hard to really get your mind around, is that while what we're



experiencing on West End today is bad, we can't count on the status quo continuing. It's going to get exponentially worse. There will be a lot more occasions in the coming years where cars will sit through multiple stop lights without moving. If you ride the regular bus, you're going to be sitting in those same traffic jams."

Schatzlein believes that the traffic problem will increase greatly; thus we need something to reduce traffic. The Amp is the solution to our traffic problems. The stations

will be located in the middle of the road to avoid "curb-delays" that buses today have. Stations will have off-board fare collections to reduce boarding times. Also, the station platforms will be even with bus platforms to reduce the risk of tripping on stairs. To avoid intersection delays, bus priority will be enforced. Although adversaries say that the Amp will be a waste of \$175 million dollars, Mayor Karl Dean and others believe that it will be a success, and it will pay for itself. According to *The Tennessean*, people have forecasted that it is to plateau about 5,200 riders per day during the third and fourth years. Based on these facts and theories, I believe that we should RELEASE THE AMP!

Stop the Amp!

By Jack Capizzi

For those who do not know, the AMP is a rapid transit system that would run from downtown Nashville near LP Field to St. Thomas Hospital near MBA. This idea was proposed and largely supported by Mayor Karl Dean. The idea of the AMP as a way of transporting large numbers of passengers and diverting traffic is a good idea, but the location is not. As every member of MBA knows, West



End traffic could not get any worse. Someone in favor of the Amp would say that the Amp is cutting down the traffic, but most people that go down West End would not want to park, walk one or two miles to their destination, and then back at the end of the day, so they would just drive their cars. Another drawback to the AMP is that it would take up two lanes in the middle of the road, causing more traffic congestion on

the street. An unsettling effect the AMP would have on West End would be the use of Elmington Park for parking. Elmington Park is an integral part of the West End community where many activities take place such as medieval sword fighting, movies in the park, and t-ball. A better route for the AMP would be Charlotte Pike because it has many up and coming businesses, is experiencing a period of rejuvenation, and is likely to benefit people who lack reliable transportation. For more information on how to stop the AMP, go to www.stopamp.com.



FEATURES

The Teenage Language Decoded

By Danny Lee

If you are anything like me, you have questioned if the teenagers saying lol are actually talking in code or just speaking a crazy form of gibberish. After interrogating some of the kids who are suspected to be leading this insane revolt against the English language, I have formed a dictionary so that educated teenagers (such as myself) can actually understand what these kids are talking about.

LOL - This was originally meant to mean "laugh out loud," but everybody overuses this word to this point: "That was so not funny, but I'm going to say lol so you don't feel bad."

BRB - This technically means "be right back," but when someone says this, it actually means, "Hey, guys, I'm going to go eat a sandwich, go to the bathroom, do my homework and completely forget about you, so please wait three hours in frustration."

NOOB - This is a term used by gamers to label new players. Non-gamers use this term to label kids who make mistakes often or someone who just made a really stupid mistake.

ROFL - A term that evolved from the word LOL. It means "Rolling On Floor Laughing". This term is used when "LOL" is not good enough and when you really want to express that you are amused. The only question is if you are rolling on the floor, how are you typing?

YOLO - Typing this makes me want to cry. It means "You Only Live Once," and people use this as an excuse to do really

stupid things. My definition is a lot better: You Obviously Love Oreos!

SELFIE - A selfie occurs when an obnoxious teen takes a picture of him/herself and posts it on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

OVER 9000 - This phrase derives from a popular T.V. show called *Dragon Ball Z*. This phrase means lots of something or that something was greatly underestimated.

DERP - This word is used to describe someone or something that is careless, stupid, or clumsy. It can also mean a mistake.

BTW - This acronym stands for "By the Way" and is one of the only Internet terms that are actually used correctly.

CYA - This term means "See You," but in my experience, people who say CYA usually do not leave.

IRL - This word means "In Real Life." I personally use this word when I am describing my relation to someone in a game "IRL" like fact that the creator of *Call of Duty: Ghosts* is my cousin "IRL."

JK - JK means "Just Kidding." I have heard people say this IRL, and this annoys me so much. Even worse is that people say "I'm just JKing with you." So you're telling me you are just kidding-ing with me?

NP - This acronym can mean "No problem" or less commonly, "Nosy Parents." The meaning of "No Problem" is as close as you can get to Internet manners. The meaning "Nosy Parents" can be used when someone is asking why you were gone from a game for so long.

AFK - Another gamer term! AFK means "Away From Keyboard," which means that you randomly got "AFK" in the middle of a game or you've been "AFK" for a long period of time.

As we near the end of my dictionary, I would like to give

you guys a test on the terms that you have learned. I will give you a normal text conversation teenagers send each other.

You: Dude, I went totally YOLO last night and took the ugliest selfie ever.

Me: LOL! I've seen your selfies. They are terrible... How many did you take anyways?

You: OVER 9000!!!!

Me: Okay then....BTW you know that really derp game *Sonic*?

You: Yeah, man. I was literally ROFL IRL.

Me: Seriously?

You: No man. I'm just JKing with you. Chill.

Me: Okay, whatever. I'll BRB with you. I just have to walk the dog.

You: Ok. CYA!

2 Days Later

Me: Hey dude, why were you AFK on COD yesterday?

You: I just had some NP around me last night.

Me: Really? What happened?

You: There was a random kid that was calling me a noob, and my parents thought it was cyber-bullying....

Me: Wow. Lol.



FEATURES

The Top Ten Most Popular Phobias

By Harrison Kidd

Phobias: an extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something. We all have a phobia. In the two lists below, not only will you get your minds blown by some of the phobias out there, you might just hear your own. This list is in descending order, ten being the least popular, one being the most. We will start with popularity.



10. Triskaidekaphobia: fear of the number thirteen. Some people call this fear only a superstition, but with how pervasive it is in western culture, it had to be put onto the list. Personally, thirteen is my favorite number, and I'm not evil or satanic. Am I?

9. Nosophobia: fear of getting a disease. This one also might be labelled as "compulsive washing your hands every two seconds disorder." Some people that have this phobia are also known as Germaphobes. But, this is a legitimate thing to be scared of, especially if you think about how easy it would be to get a fatal disease in your system.

8. Astraphobia: fear of thunder and lightning. My dogs definitely have this one. The most common thing people that have this phobia do when there is a storm is go into an enclosed shelter, usually with no windows so they can't see or hear the storm.

7. Glossophobia: fear of public speaking. Most commonly known through the Google commercial, glossophobia, or stage fright, is a more common fear than a lot of people realize. Especially for the people with good imaginations who think: What if this or this or this happens?

6. Arachnophobia: fear of spiders. I am pretty sure everyone knows this one. I really do not understand people who have this fear (sorry to those who do.) I mean seriously, people who are afraid of these kind of things kind of upset me. It is an eight-legged creature that can be simply vanquished by a stomp of the foot. It's not like they are six feet tall!

5. Ophidiophobia: fear of snakes. Sssssorry, guyssss, but I sssshare the ssssame opinion as I do with sssspiders on thisss one. SSSSSnakesss are our friendssss, and they are sssso cuddly and cute too.

4. Coulrophobia: fear of clowns. HeheHey kiddies! Clowns are probably my worst fear ever. I have an intense hatred for them. THEY are not natural! Just ask *It*, or Stephen King.

3. Nyctophobia: fear of the dark. A common children's fear, though I can say confidently that Batman does not have this fear. This is a very common fear though; that is why it is one of the highest on my list. Think about it this way: There are an infinite number of things that are in the dark. Most of them have good reason to be in there.

2. Acrophobia: Fear of acrobats. All right, fine. That was a lie, I just wanted to see how gullible you guys were. The real fear is the fear of heights. As a kid, this one was pretty scary for me. That is why one of the only rides I wouldn't ride was the ferris wheel, mainly because of the feeling I used to get when at the top.

1. Claustrophobia: fear of enclosed spaces (not the commonly mistaken Santaphobia: fear of Father Christmas). This one normally occurs in tight places like elevators, caves, or even tunnels. The reason this phobia is at the top of this list is because I know so many people with this fear.

This is the conclusion for my Top ten count for the top ten phobias. I hope you liked it, and I wish you a happy winter break.

FEATURES



Winter Survival Tips

By Bradford Holladay



No matter where you travel this holiday season, you should always be prepared to navigate through an unexpected situation. As a Boy Scout and with information from redcross.org, I have learned a few tricks worth sharing which might help you in difficult circumstances. In this edition, you will be taught how to treat hypothermia, how to survive an avalanche, and how to survive a fall into a frozen lake.

1.) How to Treat Hypothermia: Hypothermia is a cold-related emergency that is caused by the cooling of the body because of the failure of its warming system. Hypothermia can become life threatening very quickly, so it is important to recognize the symptoms and take immediate action. If you feel numbness, start excessively shivering, become weak, have impaired judgment, or begin to lose consciousness, then you are most likely suffering from hypothermia. If you notice these signs, the first thing you need to do is call 911 or the local emergency number. Then move to a warm area and monitor your breathing and circulation. Quickly remove all wet clothing and make sure you are completely dry. Slowly warm yourself by wrapping up in a blanket or towel, and if any hot packs or hot water are available, slowly heat yourself up with them. First, warm the core, then warm hands and feet. If you slowly apply heat and have access to emergency services, then you should eventually rid yourself of hypothermia and allow your body's warming system to keep you well heated.

2.) How to Survive an Avalanche: Let's say you are on a ski trip during Winter Break. You look high up on top of the mountain on which you are skiing, and you notice that an avalanche is forming. What will you do? You could either try to outrun the avalanche or realize that it might be hard to outrun a landslide of rocks and snow moving at 80 miles per hour and prepare for impact. If no cliffs, trees, or caves are available for refuge, you must make a "swimming" motion up the avalanche once it hits. The human body is about three times more dense than most of the materials that make up an avalanche, so you will sink quickly. Cup your hands around your mouth in order to make an air pocket once submerged, and if you have a stick or a long ski pole, try to hold it upright above the snow so that rescuers can pinpoint your location. If you are buried in snow and still alive, you probably will have lost your sense of direction, so spit and take notice of which way gravity takes the saliva. Begin to dig upwards with one hand in an attempt to penetrate the surface while keeping one hand cupped around your face to maintain an air pocket. Avoid shouting or screaming in order to conserve oxygen. In a worst case scenario, you will just have to wait to be rescued by Troopers or the friends you traveled with, so if you go skiing or snowboarding in a group, make sure everyone is prepared for an unexpected survival situation.

3.) How to Survive a Fall into a Frozen Lake: The number one way to avoid the frightening and life-threatening experience of breaking through thin ice and falling into a freezing body of water is to stay away from dangerous frozen areas. Sometimes accidents happen, and you might find yourself panicking as you lose control of your body, and numbness and fear begin to take control. If you realize you are about to fall through ice, take a deep breath and hold it while preparing yourself for action. It is vital to keep your head above water at all times, so if your head is submerged, immediately push to ascend to the surface. Do not panic; keep a clear mind while trying to remain afloat, as the typical human has about 2-5 minutes before losing control in the cold. Float slightly on your back and tread water until you reach the strongest edge of the ice around the hole. Grab hold of the edge and make a kicking motion as you pull yourself out, and try to retrace your footsteps back the way you came in order to avoid another chance of the ice collapsing. Roll off onto the ice, and do not stand up right away. Make your way back to shore as quickly, but safely, as possible, and make a fire or get inside a warm house or car and contact emergency services. It can be incredibly dangerous to interact with water near its freezing point, so take action as quickly as possible in order to survive.

FEATURES



Holiday Trivia

By Alex Bulgarino



1. Which country was the first to use the tradition of Christmas trees?
2. Where is the largest Christmas tree?
3. What did the American Ralph E. Morris invent?
4. Which was the last US state to declare an official holiday for Christmas?
5. Which was the first country to issue a Christmas postage stamp?
6. When is Santa Claus's, i.e. St. Nicholas's, birthday?
7. Which country has a tradition of a witch dropping gifts for children through the chimney at Christmas?
8. What is Santa Claus called in France?
9. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
10. Which American President banned Christmas trees in the White House?
11. We all know about the tradition of hanging stockings for gifts. Which country uses shoes instead of socks for the same purpose?
12. Which company made the concept of Santa Claus popular in America?
13. How many ghosts are there in *A Christmas Carol*?
14. Which is the only of Santa's reindeer that is named after another animal?
15. How many Christmas cards, on an average, are sent in the US each year?
16. When is Boxing Day?
17. What did W. C. T. Dobson invent?
18. Who helps Santa Claus in making his gifts?
19. Which Christmas song holds the credit as the most-selling Christmas single of all time?
20. Which popular Christmas food was an American invention?

Answers are found on page 16



FEATURES

The Santa Claus Stakeout

By John Spurgeon

Have you ever wondered if Santa Claus is real? Have you ever wondered why so many claim to have seen him but have never had any documented proof of it? If you answered yes to these questions, then this is just what you have been looking for! In this three-step plan, I will tell you the tricks of the trade to get evidence of Santa.

STEP ONE: Supplies

Every Santa watcher needs to have the right supplies; here are the supplies that I recommend.

1. A Ghillie suit- useful for hiding in bushes near your house.
2. Sleeping pills- not for Santa but for you. I know the song says that "He knows when you're awake," but he really does not. He can only tell when you are extremely tired and on the verge of falling asleep because he has a few billion kids to deal with, and even he cannot tell if every single one is asleep.
3. A pin, needle or anything else sharp- for use if sleeping pills have too much of an effect.
3. Reindeer chow- can be bought at local Wal-mart or Piggly Wiggly.
4. Milk and cookies- as a snack but mostly because Santa is attracted to the smell
5. Good deeds saved up from at least November 30 because with the scheme you are planning to pull your chances are slim-to-none of making the nice list without them; ergo, Santa will not visit your house. (Most think that he gives you coal directly, but he really just drops it out of the sled.)
5. Rag soaked in chloroform - unnecessary for most but essential to those who want close-ups
6. Camera-obviously

STEP TWO: The Action

This part is where the fun begins.

1. Lay reindeer chow on roof- to ensure that Santa stays long because he has some wheels for a fat man (also helpful to lay cookies and milk, too).
2. Take sleeping pills, and keep sharp object close at hand.
3. Put on Ghillie suit, and wait for Santa to arrive.
4. For those who do not want a close-up but are okay with distance shots- As he flies to your house, take all of the pictures you want
5. For those of you who want to be legends- wait for Santa to go down the chimney, and then, quickly, using reindeer chow as bait, call Rudolph and the other reindeer down from the roof of your house. (Rudolph has always been an addict so call to him the most.)
6. Santa will come out of the chimney and see his reindeer in your front yard; he will not notice you because you will be in your Ghillie suit. He will climb down from the roof to get back to the reindeer and the sleigh.
7. Sneak up behind him, and smother him using the chloroform-soaked rag; he will pass out and not remember a thing.
8. Take as many close-ups as you want.



Stakeout continued on page 12

FEATURES



Santa stakeout continued from page 11

STEP THREE: The cover-up

Covering your tracks and making sure you do not get caught

1. Bribe the reindeer into moving Santa's sleigh back onto the roof, and also to keep their snouts shut using the rest of the reindeer chow.
2. Move Santa's unconscious body back into the sleigh.
3. Put cookie crumbs on his lips and in his beard.
4. Put the milk in his mouth and in his beard; steps 3 and 4 are to ensure that

when Santa wakes up he will not remember anything.

5. Return to your bed and get a good night's sleep knowing that you have done something that many have tried and none have succeeded.

Caution: Do not ask for any of the supplies as Christmas presents.

*The *Top of the Hill* staff and writers are exempt from any responsibilities related to injuries, deaths, or demerits that are caused by the reading of this article. Thank you for your cooperation.*

Dr. Love's Guide to Long Distance Relationships

By Chris Hawkins

Dr. Love,

My girlfriend is moving to another state. I do not want us to break up because of the distance. What should I do to keep our relationship going? How can we make time to see each other even though we are so far apart?

Signed,

Troubled 7th Grader

Dear Troubled 7th Grader,

I can see how you are upset. Just know that there is a chance that it might not work out because you do not have the time for some of these activities. If your girlfriend has not left yet, you should throw her a going-away party. The best way for you to keep your relationship going is to keep in touch through technology and breaks from school. It might be good if you text each other often. That way you can keep up with what is going on in each other's lives. Try to Skype and Facetime each other so you can see one another. If you have breaks from school at the same time, you should try to go on vacations together. Also you should get together over the summer; maybe you should go to the beach together. Good luck with your long distance relationship. I hope it works out for you and your girlfriend.

Signed,

Dr. Love



Dr. Love and friends

SERIALIZATION

Serializing novels was a common practice in the 19th century and today. Stephen King's famous novel, The Green Mile was first published in a serialized format. This is the fourth year that the editors of the paper have decided to serialize a short story. This story will continue in each issue until its conclusion in our final issue in May. Enjoy!

The Swede Files: Part I

By Anonymous

It all started when Uncle Fredrickson took out his violin. Then all hell broke loose. What? Have I not given enough detail yet? Oh, right, I need to introduce the main character and all of those other boring and grueling things that nobody else wants to hear. Well, if you insist. Eric Svenson was an average American, healthy, rich, and a bit on the overweight side, except that his great-great-great-grandfather's brother's grandmother's aunt's cousin was Swedish. Anyway, he was from the the big city of Buringingtonsville, Tennessee, where they somehow managed a "sophisticated" society while still using words like "y'all" and "ain't." Why was he on a plane?, you ask. Half of the people living in Buringingtonsville had never even ridden in a plane! Eric was heading on a trip to visit his distant relations

in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, for a family reunion. All right, I think that's enough intro; let's get right back into the story.

So, Eric had just got out of the airport to set foot into Stockholm. A strange, short, hunchbacked man in a suit and tie, had picked up Eric and was completely refusing even to speak to him. Eric asked many questions on the way there, mostly arrogant and rude ones that anyone that is two percent Swedish should know. The man, knowing no English, incorrectly assuming that Eric himself knew Swedish, thought that Eric was talking trash about him in a language he did not understand, mainly because there were so many flaws to point out about him. His disfigured nose, pale skin, different colored eyes, rare spinal disorder, and huge ears were just a few of these flaws.

Finally, after an hour of horrid awkward moments for the both of them, they were finally at their terminal destination and out of the car. As they exited the vehicle, the ugly bald troll, as Eric decided to call him, grumbled incoherently. As Costcovo, as he and other kind and considerate Swedish men liked to call the "ugly bald troll" exited the van; however, he let out a string of curse words that he hoped the fat rich boy named Eric would remember.

"Well," Eric thought bitterly, "this is already the worst family reunion ever, and I haven't even gone into the mansion."

As he walked up the hill, he gasped in horror when he saw his

"mansion." It was a tiny, two floor log cabin, that looked scarier than a prison to Eric.

"I'm staying here?" he asked the man. "Are you holding me hostage? Here, if that's what you're doing, take my wallet, I don't need it!"

Costcovo let out another string of impolite words when he saw that the chunky brat threw something at him. He niftily caught the bulging thing made of crocodile skin by enslaved children, and at that point realized the thing was filled with cash. He then started laughing, rather maniacally, if you asked Eric. He rained the cherubic boy with gleeful phrases he had not used in twenty years and told the prodigy to wait and that his host will come momentarily.

As he left, Eric called after him frantically "Hey, you maniac, what are you doing? I ain't gonna sit here for more than five minutes for you to get whatever torture weapons you have in store for me!"

Eric despairingly waited for his inevitable doom. "What will he use?" he thought, in total discontent. "A knife? A glock? I even heard about this one serial killer who used scissors to kill his victims." As he looked at the car, scared out of his mind, trying to figure out if he had time to hotwire the car and leave, a shout came from behind, in English, saying "Leaving so soon?"

~~To Be Continued~~



ENTERTAINMENT

Captain Phillips

By William Petroni

Captain Phillips is an exciting thriller that will easily get you on the edge of your seat. The movie is based on actual events that occurred in 2009 when Captain Rich Phillips and his crew were taken hostage by four Somali pirates who hijacked their cargo ship off the coast of Somalia.

Tom Hanks, who plays Captain Phillips, does a wonderful job in the movie and has almost no flaws in his acting. The four men who play the Somali pirates look just like, well, pirates, with funny-looking teeth and thin builds. The story was very good but had a few points of the plot that did not make sense.

Let's start with the good parts. The movie was made well, looked very realistic, and made sense most of the time. I liked how throughout the movie, things happen that show us, yes, Captain Phillips is a hero, but also that he is just a man who has a family and a life outside of being a captain. This trait is shown when he is talking to his wife on the way to the airport and when he is rescued, he asks if his family knows he is safe. When he is in his final moments on the lifeboat being held hostage, he writes a quick letter to his family from paper and a pen he finds in the lifeboat in the hope that, if he dies, somebody will find it and give it to his family. I thought it was



great that before the pirates leave to hijack Captain Phillips' ship, the movie gives a little look into a day in the lives of the village the pirates live in. They have nothing in their lives. Their village is small and is filled with poverty. They sleep on the ground and have rags to wear for clothes. A warlord, who will kill them if they do not get money constantly for him, controls their lives. In the movie, one of the pirates Muse tells Captain Phillips that his dream is to one day go to New York and buy a car. This is the youthful side of him and the three other pirates, which says that they are just young men with nothing to do but kidnap people for a living. The camera angle throughout the whole movie made me feel like there was a cameraman right there, filming everything that happened. These are just a few of the many parts of the movie I enjoyed. However, there were a few parts of the movie that I didn't like.

When I was watching the movie, a question arose in my head: Why didn't Captain Phillips or one

of the people on the cargo ship carry a weapon? Captain Phillips was aware that they would be sailing around the coast of Somalia and that there was a chance that their ship

could be hijacked. Captain Phillips went through emergency procedures, but when the pirates came, all they had were hoses and two flares to protect millions of dollars of cargo. There are times when Captain Phillips lies or distracts the pirates with what seems like lies that would have been extremely obvious for the pirates to pick up.

Overall, this is a great movie that is a must-watch. I would recommend this movie to anyone, especially for people who like action and emotionally draining movies. Out of ten, I would give *Captain Phillips* a nine. I will definitely see this movie again.



ENTERTAINMENT

Ender's Game Review

By Chris Hawkins

**WARNING: THIS MAY
CONTAIN SPOILERS ABOUT
THE MOVIE**

Ender's Game is a movie based on a science fiction novel that takes place in the future. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is a six-year-old genius. He is put under "The Program," a way for the government in this society to recruit the smartest and best boys and girls to fight in the war against an alien race. Ender, like many others, is chosen to go to Battle School to train. After many years, Ender shows his higher ability and fights his way to be the commander of the fleet headed for the alien planet.

In the movie, Ender is portrayed by Asa Butterfield, who is



sixteen years old. Ender is chosen to go to the Battle School and is in a launch group with Bean who, in the book, is launched a few years after Ender arrives at the school. Ender excels quickly in the Battle School and is put into the Salamander Army where he is undermined by the commander of the army, Bonzo. In his free time, Ender practices with Petra, a sharpshooter and the only girl in the Salamander Army. At night, Ender plays a game where you control a character to get past different brain tests. In the game, Ender gets past a level that no one has beaten, and the computer shows

him a picture of his sister, brother, and a queen of the Formics, a leader of the alien race he is supposed to fight. Ender eventually becomes a commander of his own army, the Dragon Army which goes undefeated and is also able to beat two teams at once. Bonzo is so angry at Ender that he tries to beat him up in the shower room. Ender forces Bonzo to the floor where he is seriously injured. Ender refuses to do anything else at the school and after a short break on earth goes to commander school to learn how to defeat the Formics.

While there, the legendary Mazer Rackham, who defeated the Formics in the first war against the Formics, teaches him.

I will leave you there so that you will have to see the movie to find out the conclusion to *Ender's Game*. Overall, I liked the movie but did not like it better than the book. The difference between Ender's age in the movie and the book is surprisingly large and was a disappointment. I encourage you all to see the movie and to read the book if you like action and science fiction.



Seasons Greetings

ENTERTAINMENT

Catching Fire

By Bradford Holladay

If you enjoy action, suspense, and violence with a spice of romance, then you must watch the latest edition to the *Hunger Games* series, *Catching Fire*. The movie, *Catching Fire*, refuses to let down fans of Suzanne Collins by following quite closely the original *Hunger Games* novels. *Catching Fire* is about teenager Katniss Everdeen as she tries to protect her family while dodging the countless obstacles thrown at her by the dictators of her nation. Every year in Katniss' country, Panem, two tributes from each of the twelve districts are chosen to participate in the Hunger Games, which is a fight to the death until the lone survivor is crowned victor. In the first movie, Katniss' sister, Prim, is chosen to participate in the Hunger Games, but Katniss volunteers and takes her place. Katniss fights with her partner, Peeta



Mellark, and barely survives along with him in order to be crowned victor. She returns home to District 12 and reverses her family from being impoverished to becoming wealthy, only to be forced into fighting in the Hunger Games for a second time as a punishment for creating a movement throughout Panem that was rapidly weakening the dictator government and creating anarchy. Katniss is forced to survive in another dangerous arena against the victors of the Hunger Games of previous years and survive against all odds. Fighting for love and the freedom of her neighbors, Katniss endures the

Hunger Games for a second time along with her allies, Peeta, Beetee, and Finnick Odair. Katniss survives with her allies by destroying the arena and fleeing to the deserted District 13. Previously, this area was believed to have been abandoned after being bombed by the dictators of Panem, but in reality, a secret underground shelter exists in order to protect the fighters of the

rebellion.

Catching Fire is closely related to the novel and will not disappoint fans of the *Hunger Games* trilogy. I recommend this movie to any fan of the *Hunger Games* series and believe that this sequel is well worth the price of admission. If you have not read the books on which the movie is based, you may have trouble understanding the material in the movie, so I recommend first reading the *Hunger Games* series. My rating for the latest *Hunger Games* movie, *Catching Fire*, is an 8/10.

Holiday Trivia Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Germany | 15. Three billion |
| 2. King's Canyon National Park, California | 16. December 26 – the day after Christmas |
| 3. Christmas lights | 17. The Christmas card |
| 4. Oklahoma | 18. Elves |
| 5. Austria | 19. "White Christmas" |
| 6. December 5th | 20. Eggnog |
| 7. Italy | |
| 8. Père Noël | |
| 9. Canada | |
| 10. Theodore Roosevelt | |
| 11. The Netherlands | |
| 12. Coca-Cola® | |
| 13. Four | |
| 14. Vixen | |



ENTERTAINMENT

Gravity 3-D

By Mike Miccioli

Gravity 3-D, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, is a mind-blowing film that presents some of the possible troubles of space activity. Bullock plays a medical engineer named Dr. Ryan Stone, who is working alongside an expert astronaut named Matt Kowalski, played by Clooney. While they are working on their spaceship, an accumulation of debris hurtling through space annihilates their ship. This devastating event sends the two co-workers drifting away into space. The movie primarily focuses on Dr. Stone's trek to reach safety at a Chinese space station while



running out of oxygen; however, shortly after she reaches the station, it catches on fire, and Stone has to take an escape pod and attempt to navigate her way back to Earth. Kowalski perishes somewhat early in the film, making Stone the lone survivor of the debris storm. During her state of complete solitude, Stone remembers her daughter who tragically died at the age of four. Since the pod is out of fuel and she feels there is no way to survive, she

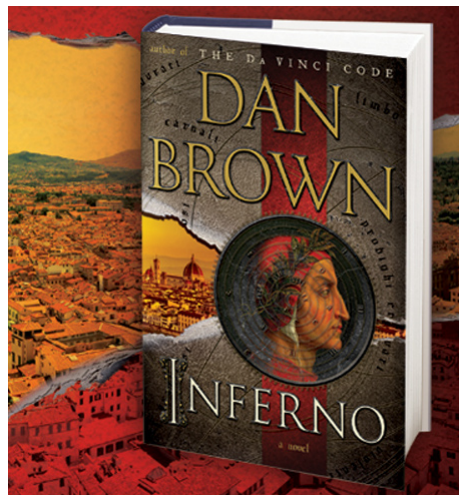
contemplates suicide and shuts off the oxygen in the pod and awaits her death. During this time, she hallucinates and sees Kowalski outside the window. He comes in and gives her advice on how to start the rocket by showing her that she can initiate the landing sequence and use the rockets. He inspires her not to give up.

The director Alfonso Cuarón does a remarkable job at capturing the atmosphere, or lack of one, in outer space. Although the movie is chock full of scientific inaccuracies, it is still an entertaining film and accomplishes its desired effect. Unlike some movies where 3-D seems like a superfluous addition, the third dimension makes *Gravity* even more breathtaking by giving the audience an experience of low gravity.

Inferno

By Will Weaver

In Dan Brown's latest novel, *Inferno*, intrepid Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon is back. The novel opens when Langdon awakes in an Italian hospital with a bullet wound, a fuzzy memory, and a secret package inside his coat pocket. When an assassin enters the hospital and kills his doctor, Langdon escapes with Dr. Sienna Brooks, an illegal citizen with an I.Q. level of 208. After they discover that the secret package in his coat pocket is a laser pointer that projects an adjusted image of Botticelli's "La Mappa dell'Inferno," or "The Map of Hell." The map, which



was based on Dante's *Inferno*, the first book in his *Divine Comedies*, sends Langdon and Brooks on a wild goose chase around Italy. This adventure leads them to finding a virus sent through the city waterways that will eventually spread around the globe.

Knowing that the virus is sent from a man who believes something must be done about the population overgrowth. Brooks and Langdon discover that the virus does not kill, but it makes people barren. The story ends with Sienna and Robert parting when Sienna attends a conference to stop the disease and Robert returns to Harvard.

I enjoyed the book immensely and would suggest it to any person curious about symbology or anyone just looking for a good book to read.



ENTERTAINMENT

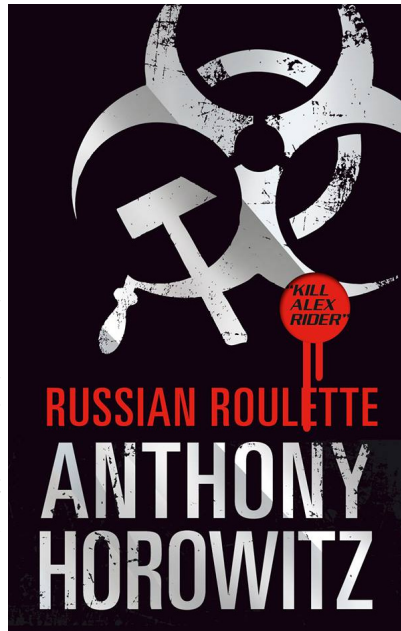
Russian Roulette

By Jack Capizzi

Anthony Horowitz has released another addition to the *Alex Rider* series called *Russian Roulette: The Story of an Assassin*. The novel is about Yassen Gregorovich and his life starting at the age of fourteen.

The story starts as Yassen checks into his hotel, goes to his room, and opens his computer to read the story he has been writing about his life. The rest of the novel is read from his own story. We see Yassen's life as a child living in the little town of Estrov, Russia, where his parents work in a factory that produces fertilizer. Yassen's parents tell him that the factory also produces chemicals for warfare, one of those being a deadly form of anthrax. The anthrax leaks one day, causing everyone in the town to die or be killed by authorities that do not want the disease to spread. The only person that is able to escape is Yassen because his father developed an antidote but only had enough for one person.

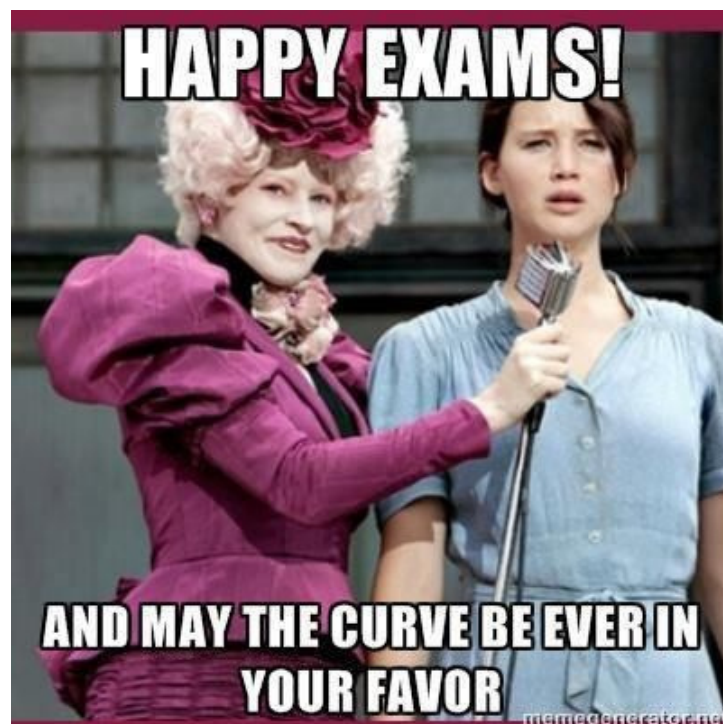
The story continues in Russia where someone he thought he could trust betrays Yassen, who then befriends a couple of pick-pocketing Russian teenagers whom he lives with in poverty, stealing to stay alive. Later in the story, while



trying to steal from a house, Yassen is captured and made a slave on a Russian billionaire named Nikolai Sharkovsky. Yassen is taught by some of the other captives how to speak different languages, cook, and operate vehicles, ranging from cars to a helicopter. After four years, Yassen manages

to escape (I will not tell you how) and stumbles across Scorpia. For those who do not know, Scorpia is a secret agency that specializes in sabotage, assassination, corruption, and intelligence. The agency trains him to become an assassin. When he goes on his first

mission, he is not able to kill his target. This failure results in Scorpia's losing trust in him. To see if he can prove himself, they send him on a mission with John Rider, Alex Rider's father. The mission takes them on a trip through the Amazon where they encounter termites, snakes, and even a black widow. After this mission, Yassen becomes a full time assassin for Scorpia. The story ends when he stops reading the story and goes to Alex Rider's house. He sees he is not there, so he goes to the headquarters of Herod Sayle from the *Stormbreaker* book and encounters Alex Rider. The novel is awesome, and I would recommend it to any *Alex Rider* fan. If you have not read any of the *Alex Rider* books, you should definitely read them and the new *Russian Roulette* by Anthony Horowitz.



ENTERTAINMENT

NBA 2K14: Dream Team or Benchwarmer

By Henry Rhodes

The three main adjustments to *NBA 2K14* are the new game modes, a brand new home screen, and better graphics.

Unlike the last game, *NBA 2K14* is all about LeBron James. He was able to choose the soundtrack, the features, and give himself his own game mode, "The Path to Greatness" which is a game mode where you can choose if you want to go to the Heat and create a dynasty or sign with another team. I chose to sign with



the Knicks and am now their main man. This choice caused the rosters to change, sending Carmelo to Los Angeles. Anyway, the goal is always different. In one game, both Chalmers and LeBron were point guards. "Path to Greatness" is fun and never gets boring.

The home screen is different but retro at the same time. The home screen has the main game going on that night, but the players are more realistic. Also, your next "My Player" game is on the home screen for easy access. I prefer the *2K12* home screen

because every game mode was accessible.

The graphics have gotten better but will only be enhanced and extremely noticeable with the Xbox One or PS4. One player, however, was messed up badly. This year, it was Chris Paul. His lips are massive, and his nose is huge. Although LeBron

is very realistic this year, he was messed up last year. Also, the shooting mechanics have gotten a nice upgrade. His in-game shot and free throw stroke are almost identical to his form in real life. When creating a player, you can toggle the speed of release from fast to slow. Also, you can now block dunks and post shots.

Overall, I give this a 9/10 (Dream Team) for the great graphics, sweet new game modes, and becoming a great addition to the *2K* family.

Battlefield 4 Review

By Joseph Hatcher

Battlefield 4 was released in late October, and being a loyal fan, I got a copy on the release date. Like some EA games, it has two discs for campaign and multiplayer. The campaign has some great new features like being able to order around your squad and change your weapon load. Sadly, the game froze, and in anger, I kicked over my Xbox and damaged the disc, BUT the missions I did play



were great. Since the game is so large, it does freeze often, which is quite frustrating. Multiplayer is where this franchise really shines. Huge maps with tons of vehicles allow for a fast-paced, intense match. My favorite map is called "Paracel Storm." This map is a large ocean setting dotted with small islands that players have to control. The game introduces new assault boats

that can not only attack enemies, but also transport other players, and the boats have a jet ski on the back for quick escapes. The upgrade system is very simple and players earn "battlepacks" that give you random camouflages and attachments. Starting out can be frustrating because the starting weapons are generally really bad. Most of what I have ever gotten I cannot even use because I have not unlocked the weapons they are for.

Overall, this game is worth buying as long as you do not kick over your game system.

ENTERTAINMENT

Call of Duty: Ghosts

By Jack Capizzi



After last year's *Black Ops 2*, which sold five-hundred million dollars in the first day on the shelves, seven and a half million copies in the first month, and twenty-four million copies by the start of November, numbers show that they were up were in for a challenge. They have released the tenth edition called *Call of Duty: Ghosts*, which has definitely introduced a new generation to *Call of Duty*.

The campaign is about the Ghosts, one of the remaining task forces of the crumbling United States. In this version of *COD*, instead of having a Russian or Middle Eastern antagonist, the new villain Gabriel Rorke is a former Ghost who was captured and brainwashed into becoming part of the Federation, a union of Latin American countries that have become rich with oil and are now attempting to take over the Americas and the rest of the world. The protagonists of the campaign are Ghosts Elias Walker, his sons Logan Walker and David "Hesh" Walker, and the dog Riley. The movements of the game have gotten a lot quicker and are showcased in the campaign during lots of fast paced missions that are set in a

variety of places from the Andes Mountains to outer space or through the viewpoint of Riley. I believe the campaign is more like the *Modern Warfare* campaign in the sense that it focuses more on the plot than on the running and shooting followed by more running and shooting with an occasional explosion that was seen in the *Black Ops* series. The campaign has definitely stepped it up from last year. I give the campaign a 9/10.

Another mode of *Ghosts* that has gotten lots of hype is the new "Extinction mode." This mode is essentially the zombies replaced with aliens who come in "Hives" instead of waves. In "Extinction," you kill aliens to gain money which you can spend on weapons, or you can search in search chests for perks and money. Instead of starting with just an M1911 pistol, you get to choose a class of either a Tank, Engineer, Medic, or Weapon Specialist. You also get to create your own "Loadout" that includes a choice of four different pistols and different ammo types as well as the option of choosing specific items for "Team Support," "Strike Package," and "Equalizer." The "Extinction"

mode is a fun alternative to zombies, which many people (including myself) are getting tired of, in and outside of *COD*. "Extinction" gets an 8/10.

The final and most awaited game mode is, of course, the multiplayer. The multiplayer has kept the additions made to the *Black Ops* multiplayer, including the "Pick Ten System" where you can have up to ten items that can be whatever you want, which allows you to have more freedom with what you use and how you play. They have also added "Create-A-Soldier" which allows you to customize the look of your player in anything from their gender to the their headwear. This feature adds a more personal flair to the game. There are new multiplayer modes such as "Cranked," "Blitz," "Hunter," and "Grind," which help with creating new ways to play the game so that it will not get boring. Also, there are "Search and Destroy" and "Infected," which have gotten small but noticeable additions. The multiplayer is again one of the best modes of the game and is even better with the new additions. I give the multiplayer a 10/10.

Call of Duty: Ghosts has proved many wrong in thinking that it would just be a knock-off of *Modern Warfare* and would be the end of *COD*. This game has proven to be one of the best games of the year so far and shows how *COD* is in a league of its own. I would give *COD: Ghosts* a 9/10.

ENTERTAINMENT

Limbo: Not For the Faint of Heart

By Harrison Kidd

Limbo: a mostly unheard of game, but if you know where to look, (horror section of the Apple store) it is easy to find. It is one of the darkest games I have ever played, both in graphics and in violence. Unfortunately for me, it is also a puzzle game, which is why the game itself took over ninety-four hours of solid gameplay for me to complete, (and a little help from some walkthroughs). This is the point where readers ask, then why the heck did you keep on playing? And this is where I tell you. For one thing, the graphics are stunning. In fact, they are some of the best graphics I have ever seen in a third person game, (especially an app) ever. The scenery is spectacular, and the movement is also pretty fluid.



The puzzles are, as I emphasized before, the hardest I have ever played, and yet, so awesome. They are not the kind of puzzles that make you super angry, cough cough cat Mario cough cough, but they are the kind that make you want to try again and again. Now to the downsides, if you are not comfortable seeing your character's limbs get riddled and disabled by a buzz saw, or getting smashed, drowned, impaled by a giant spider, or having a box falling on your head after almost figuring out a puzzle and having to start all over again (long story), this is NOT the game for you. The blood does not look too real, though, since everything is a shade of black and white, so if blood is an issue, you

are okay there. Also, this game is not for simple people (like me). I am not kidding when I say that this game took me hours of constant gameplay, and some of

the puzzles are ridiculously hard. Next issue, the story, though good, is surrounded in mystery. Why are there giant bugs? Why are the natives trying to murder you? What are the random mind-controlling maggot things that latch onto your head and control your movements? Why is there a totally empty sign for a hotel that you never ever find, in the middle of the wilderness? These are just a few of the totally unanswered questions that are never answered through gameplay, ever. This mysterious gameplay can be thought of as a good thing or a bad thing. In my opinion, though it was kind of inceptiony and cool never to know what the heck was going on, it was also quite annoying at times. So, in conclusion, this is a great game, but it should not be played if you are easily scared or scarred, if you are not puzzle-friendly, or if you only like straightforward storylines. If I had to give this game a rating, it would be 9.5 discarded giant spider corpses out of 10.

Warning - Rated M and not suitable for all. View with caution.



HOLIDAY WISHES

Happy Holidays from the Editors



**Writers
Wanted**

The Top of the Hill is looking for writers for the upcoming March edition. The staff meets every Tuesday during break in Mrs. Roberts' room (M21). All are welcome!

SPORTS



Commodore Corner

As of 11/23/13

By Ben Coulthard



Football: The Vanderbilt Commodores are going into their final week of the season with a record of 7-4 with a key win against their rivals, the Tennessee Volunteers. Earlier this season, Vanderbilt was fortunate enough to beat both Georgia and Florida in the same season for the first time ever. Vandy won a thriller in Nashville against the Bulldogs with a 17 point rally in the fourth quarter to beat Georgia 31-27 with Jerron Seymour scoring a 13-yard touchdown with 2:53 left in the game, and the defense holding the highly touted offensive attack led by Aaron Murray. The Commodores traveled to College Station, Texas, to face Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel and his Texas A&M Aggies in a game that was no contest. The Aggies passed for 305 yards against a weak Vandy pass defense and won the game in a blowout, 56-24. After the loss, many Vanderbilt faithful were questioning how Coach James Franklin was leading the team, but all doubts were put to rest after Vanderbilt traveled to the Swamp in Gainesville, Florida, and beat the Gators 34-17, earning their first road win against Florida since 1945. The Commodores won against the Kentucky Wildcats in a game that was no contest, but eventually helped the 'Dores win the next week against Tennessee because quarterback Patton Robinette threw a jump-pass to tight end Kris Kentera at the end to seal the game. After Kentucky, Vanderbilt prepared for what would be their game of the year against Tennessee. Vandy took a "business trip" to Knoxville, and won a defensive struggle 14-10. The drama came with 48 seconds in the game when QB Austyn Carta-Samuels dove across the first down line on 4th and inches, but the spot he received marked him short of the first down and seemed to give Tennessee victory. However, the spot was reviewed, and Carta-Samuels did happen to cross the first down line and kept the drive alive. Jordan Matthews caught a 22-yard pass to the UT 9-yard line, and Patton Robinette faked the jump-pass from the week before that got Tennessee defenders in the air and let Robinette walk into the end zone with 14 seconds in the game to win.

Baseball: The annual Black and Gold intersquad scrimmage took place for five games between November 14th and November 20th. This five game series was interesting because only three games are normally played. However, because Vanderbilt's baseball team is flush with pitchers, they were able to play five 7-inning games. In the first game, it took extra innings for the Gold squad, led by junior Tyler Beede, to win 5-4. Freshman Nolan Rogers drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the 8th to win. The Gold team carried the momentum to the second game to win 13-4 behind a solid performance behind Jared Miller's 11 strikeouts. This was very impressive because Miller pitched only five innings, meaning he got 11 of his 15 outs by strikeouts. However, the Black squad was down, but not out. Hard-throwing sophomore Tyler Ferguson gave up only one run over 4 innings of work, and Ro Coleman hit a triple and stole home to score. Nevertheless, next game, Beede came to play. The right-hander threw eight strikeouts over 5 innings for the win, clinching a series win for the Gold team. Just looking at the Black and Gold series, it looks as if the baseball team will have great pitchers to anchor the team this season.

Basketball: It seems as if the woes of the Vanderbilt basketball squad have continued. They are 3-2 with losses to non-conference Butler and Providence, both which were winnable games. Their wins have come against Morgan State, Georgia State, and Lipscomb. Even though they are led by seniors Kyle Fuller and Rod Odom, many underclassmen players will have to step up to lead the team if they have any chance of having a successful season.

SPORTS

Tennessee Titans Recap

As of 11/23/13

By Palmer Thombs

The Tennessee Titans' season started off looking like yet another failure when Darius Reynaud stepped out of the end zone, then back in and took a knee for a safety vs. the Pittsburgh Steelers. Since this first play, the Titans have had their ups and downs. After an exciting offseason for fans with the addition of Chance Warmack, Andy Levitre, Bernard Pollard, and Shonn Greene along with many others and a 1-3 performance in the preseason, the Titans won their first game at the Pittsburgh Steelers 16 – 9. The Titans defense played well with sacks, a fumble recovery, and an interception throughout the game. Newcomer Jackie Battle scored his first touchdown as a Titan following his big fourth down conversion. The season looked to be starting well and next up was a visit to Houston. Wearing the good-looking all blue uniforms, the Titans went into overtime with the Texans, but came home with a 30-24 loss. Two interceptions and a mistake-free game helped the Titans hang in with the defending AFC South champion.

The Titans finally came back to the Music City to open their home season against the Chargers. Jake Locker's 299 passing and 68 rushing yards led the Titans to a second 20-17 victory. Veteran wide receiver Nate Washington hauled in eight receptions for 131 yards, but it was rookie Justin Hunter who made his first career catch a memorable one. With 15 seconds remaining, Jake Locker heaved a pass downfield to Hunter, who went up and caught the ball for the game-winning



touchdown. Next up for the Titans were the New York Jets. The always-interesting Jets with their new quarterback brought a challenge for the Titans to L.P. Field. Two interceptions and a fumble recovery from cornerback Alterraun Verner led the defense to a strong performance. Locker was knocked out of the game, however, during the third quarter after a hit from the Jets that caused a right hip injury. The Titans went on to win dominantly 38-13.

With Locker's injury, the Titans were left with free agent acquisition Ryan Fitzpatrick. The Titans were up against the undefeated Kansas City Chiefs next. Though the Titans had opportunities to win, they came up short and left with a disappointing 26-17 loss. Once again without Locker, the Titans took on the powerful Seattle Seahawks on the west coast. The tough travel to play in a tough stadium got to the Titans and they once again lost a close one, 20-13. The Titans defense struggled to contain the explosive rushing attack of the Seahawks leading to the loss. After the trip back to Nashville, the Titans took on yet another NFC West opponent, the defending NFC champion, the San Francisco 49ers. The Titans took their first blowout of the season which Titans fans have gotten used to in the past few years, losing 31-17. The storyline in this game, however, was the return of Locker to the Titans. Some believed he might have been returning too quickly; however, he proved all the doubters wrong by throwing for 326 yards and

two touchdowns. Following the loss to the 49ers, the Titans had their bye and returned to play a third NFC West team. Before this game, however, Titans owner Bud Adams sadly passed away. The Titans would honor him in the upcoming games. Matching up against the former Titans coach Jeff Fisher and his banged up St. Louis Rams, the Titans traveled up to St. Louis and came through with the win. A stellar game from Chris Johnson who ran for 150 yards and two touchdowns, the second of which came with 2:54 left in the game to put the Titans on top of the Rams. The Titans came back to Nashville with a 28-21 victory.

The Titans looked ahead to their next game against the Jacksonville Jaguars as a chance to get back in the playoff hunt. This was not the case though as the Titans choked and lost 29-27. The main loss of the game was not the loss to the Jaguars, but the loss of Jake Locker for the season. Locker left the game early with a foot injury. It was later announced he would have season-ending foot surgery. The Titans had a quick turnaround again left with Ryan Fitzpatrick. The NFL Network's *Thursday Night Football* came to Music City for the Titans to square off against the Indianapolis Colts. The Titans disappointed the viewers, however, when they started off hot but ended terribly. The Titans let the Colts come back, and the Titans lost 30-27. Chris Johnson again performed well with two touchdowns, but mistakes killed the Titans' chances to pull within one game of the AFC South lead. The Titans are now 4-6 heading into their remaining six games as they hope to make a push for an AFC Wild Card position in the playoffs. The remaining schedule is as follows:

12/1 @ Indianapolis Colts
12/8 @ Denver Broncos
12/15 vs. Arizona Cardinals
12/22 @ Jacksonville Jaguars
12/29 vs. Houston Texans

SPORTS



Nashville Predators Season Update

As of 11/17/13

By Robert Cowan

The Nashville Predators are off to a decent start to the season. As of November 17, the Preds are 9-9-2, which is enough to earn last in their conference and 20th in the league. Right now, Nashville is playing without their star goalie, Pekka Rinne, who is out with a hip infection. Over the offseason, Pekka had surgery in his hip, and five months later, an infection has come up. The infection has sidelined Pekka for four weeks now, so he should be back soon. As for other injuries, the Predators have been fortunate enough not to have any. Mike Fisher has missed some games because of injury, but he is back now. Roman Josi, one of the Predators defenseman, came back about two weeks ago after suffering a concussion.

The Predators finished the

month of October with a record of 7-4-2, earning 16 points. This start is fairly average and would give the Preds a good start to the season; however, the start of November would be the longest road trip that the team has ever faced, seven games in 17 days. The Predators started the road trip with a loss in Phoenix, 5-4 in a shootout. The next game was in L.A. against the Kings. The Preds would win 4-3. The Predators traveled to Denver to play the Avalanche. Going into this game, the Aves had lost only twice at home, but the Preds were going to change this record. Nashville scored six goals in this game to put down the Avalanche 6-4. The next four games were all downhill. The Preds were outscored 17-2 losing 5-0, 5-0, 3-1, and 4-1. They would finish the road trip 2-4-1.

The next game the Predators played was at home against the defending Stanley Cup Champions, the Chicago Blackhawks. Most

people thought the Hawks would win, but the Preds proved them wrong. The Predators won the game 7-2 with a different person scoring each goal. The road trip plus the latest game they played against Chicago shows how the Predators are truly an unpredictable team.



Rich Clune

Team leaders:

Goals: Patric Hornqvist- 6

Points: David Legwand- 17

Penalty Minutes: Rich Clune- 52

Time on ice: Shea Weber- 26 minutes a game

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR exams!



SPORTS



The NBA: Same Story, Different Characters



By Henry Rhodes

A lot has happened thus far in the NBA, including three “brand-new” teams, offseason acquisitions, and the NBA Draft. In addition, it was a busy offseason for many teams including the Brooklyn Nets, Boston Celtics, and the New Orleans Pelicans (formerly known as the Hornets). One blockbuster deal was made this year between the Nets and the Celtics. Boston sent Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Jason Terry to the Nets for Keith Bogans, Marshon Brooks, Kris Humphries, and Gerald Wallace. The team that definitely won out in this trade was Brooklyn. They got a six-time all-star and a fifteen-time all-star; furthermore, all three players have won the finals. Garnett was also named defensive player of the year in the 08-09 season. The Pelicans, while changing their name, also got new jerseys, with new additions including all-star PG Jrue Holiday, and Tyreke Evans.

There were a tremendous number of free agents who either switched teams or got traded.

Greg Oden signed with the Heat.

Monta Ellis went to the Mavs.

Al Jefferson went to the Bobcats.

Paul Millsap was sent to the Hawks.

Brandon Jennings and Josh Smith to the Pistons.

Dwight Howard to the Rockets

Andre Iguodola to the Golden State Warriors.

Andrew Bynum to the Cavaliers.

Jason Kidd is the New Coach for the Nets

Brad Stevens went from Butler to the Celtics as Head Coach



The Top 20 Draft Picks

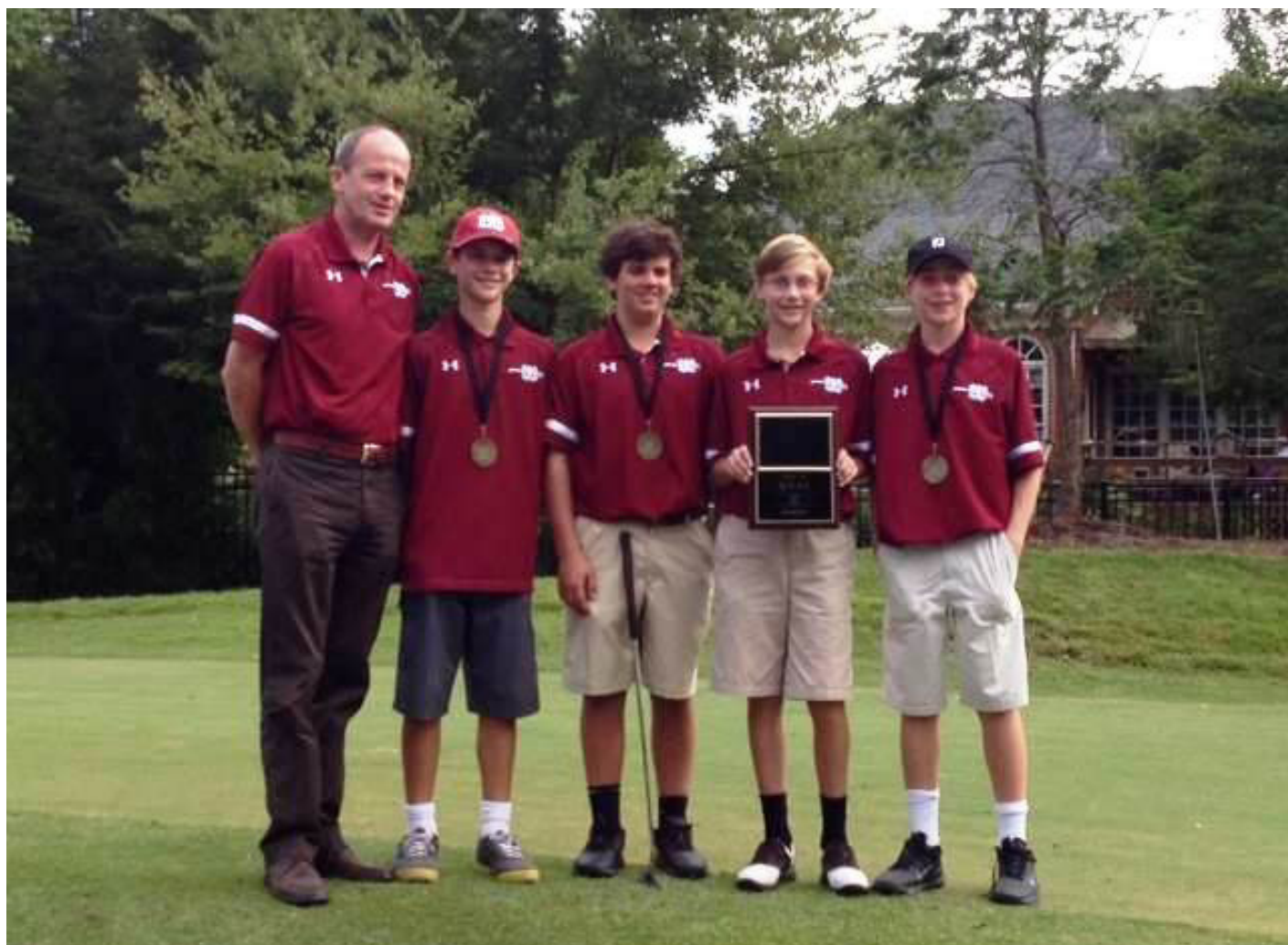
1. Anthony Bennett: Cavaliers
2. Victor Oladipo: Magic
3. Otto Porter: Wizards
4. Cody Zeller: Bobcats
5. Alex Len: Suns
6. Nerlens Noel: Pelicans (traded to Sixers for Holiday)
7. Ben McLemore: Kings
8. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope: Pistons
9. Trey Burke: Timberwolves
10. C.J. McCollum: Trail Blazers
11. Michael Carter-Williams: 76ers
12. Steven Adams: Thunder
13. Kelly Olynyk: Mavericks (Traded to Celtics for Lucas Nogueira)
14. Shabazz Muhammad: Jazz
15. Giannis Antetokounmpo: Bucks
16. Lucas Nogueira: Celtics (look at Kelly Olynyk)
17. Dennis Schroeder: Hawks
18. Shane Larkin: Hawks
19. Sergey Karasev: Cavaliers
20. Tony Snell: Bulls

BIG RED SPORTS

Microbe A Golf Wins HVAC!

By Haynes Lynch

The Microbe A golf team finished the year 4-3, including an HVAC championship. The members of the team are Jack Crawford, William Davis, Sam Funk, Will Grana, Tucker Harwell, Zachary Jackson, Haynes Lynch, Alex McClellan, Carter McClellan, and Josh Morris. Michael Kelly was the coach. The four players that played for the Big Red in the HVAC tournament were Zachary Jackson, Haynes Lynch, Alex McClellan, and Josh Morris. Josh shot a 36 earning 2nd place in the whole tournament. MBA was followed closely behind by Brentwood Academy by two strokes. The golf team would like to thank all of the parents who helped out during the season, and Mr. Kelly for making the golf experience one to remember.



Congratulations to the 2013 HVAC Champions!

BIG RED SPORTS

Soccer A: HVAC Champions!

By Cole Deal

The MBA Microbe Soccer A-team had a great season this fall. After winning nine championships in-a-row, we were not going to be known as the team that lost the tenth championship. As we lost half our team last year to high school, we also gained help from many good seventh graders. Captains Alex Bulgarino, Colin Snell, Cole Deal, and goalkeeper Jack O'Brien lead the team through the season. We started the season with our first game against BA after only having one day of practice as a team. We had a rough start in the first half but pulled out in the second to begin our road to the HVAC championship. Center backs Joel Elasy and Colin Snell were put up to an intimidating task against BGA's 6'7" forward. They stayed strong through the game and helped the team continue the streak. Another big game of the season was against USN. Having beaten them last year in the HVAC championship, we knew they would come out strong. We rose to the challenge and beat them 4-0 with three goals in the second half. Our final regular season game was against CPA. Again we played strong in the second half and won 3-1.

With only a week left in the season and a tenth HVAC win only two games away, we knew we had to play our best. Being the first seed in the playoffs, we would play CPA in the semi-finals. They came out strong and kept us 0-0 at half. But again we pulled through in the second half, and Luke Bernatavitz scored a bicycle kick for the coolest goal of the season. MBA had won the HVAC the past nine years; going to the finals for a chance to win ten in a row was great but also brought nervous feeling along with it. After a great speech on the bus ride by Colin Snell, we were ready for the game. Both teams came out strong and took the game into overtime. After the first half of overtime, Collin gave another motivating speech that seemed to work when Luke scored two goals in the first three minutes of the second half of overtime. With only seven minutes left in overtime, the team played like HVAC champions. There's no feeling like it when the referee blows the final whistle, and you have won the HVAC for the tenth year in a row, finishing the season 11-0.



Ten Time HVAC Champs!!!

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Amy Lynch

BIG RED SPORTS

Microbe B Team Soccer

By Zach Garfinkel

The Microbe B Soccer Team performed really well this season finishing with a stellar 9-1 record. The team scored 55 goals and allowed only 7 over the span of the season. MBA's B Team's only loss was a 1-2 loss in the first game of the season against Brentwood Academy. The opening loss did not

deflate the Big Red; it only motivated us to win. We won our next game, and kept winning, all the way to the last game of the season, where we beat Ensforth 3-1 on November 13th. Our best game was against USN where we won 14-0! The MBA B Soccer Team also got to play against the MBA C Team and pulled out a 4-1 victory. Some significant players are eighth graders Oliver Briggs, Tucker Harwell, James McKnight, Centre King, and Drew Weikert. We played well each game and scored many goals. Tucker scored a memorable goal as he drifted off to the side of the field, and at an impossible angle, somehow curved the ball into the goal. We also tried to get as

many headers as we possibly could every game. It left other teams speechless. We had many hard practices where we ran until we couldn't run anymore. Our team learned many soccer tricks including the scissor, the drag, and the pullback. We worked on our shots and how we had to land on our kicking foot. We also scrimmaged and played lots of 3 on 1 and 6-on-2 keep away to improve our skills.

Our team improved greatly over the season both on the field as soccer players and off the field as people with the help from our coaches, Coach Lanier and Coach Dougherty. We appreciate these men so much for guiding our Microbe B Soccer Team to a successful season.

C Team Performs with Pride

By Palmer Thombs

The MBA Microbe Soccer C team outperformed expectations of coaches and players this season. Boys cut from the A and B teams still had the opportunity to play soccer, just not at the HVAC level. A position on C team was not given to each of the boys; they had to prove themselves in yet another soccer tryout. Once Coach Paolicchi had selected the team, the season began. The team started with a matchup against another C team coming from USN. The boys got off to a great start to the season with a 4-0 victory over the Tigers. The defense played strong, not allowing the goalkeepers Manny Rodgers and Trace Fontana to prove themselves. This defensive success came along with a strong performance



from the midfield and strikers on offense. Next up for the Big Red were the Lions of CPA. The C team was matched against a strong B team in the upcoming game.

Once again a shutout from the defense led by Ben Coulthard, Palmer Thombs, and Sam Strang sparked the offensive attack. The Lions hung in with the Big Red and kept the game tight throughout the match; however, the Big Red pulled through and got the 2-0 victory.

A week off gave the Big Red time to prepare for two more games the next week. Whether it was World Cup or scrimmages, the team had fun while learning the game of soccer thanks to Coach Paolicchi along with senior soccer stars Ross Blackwell, Chase Duffey, and Nick Obremsky. Following a week of practice that led to the team battle cry and motto "spicy cheddar," the team was prepared for a game on the road against the DCA Wildcats, yet another B team. The boys had to wait even longer as DCA did not have a B team for the Big Red to play against, so the Big Red won by

forfeit. The team did not have to wait long though, as they opposed another USN team later that week. This team, however, was the USN B team, a very competitive opponent. The Big Red pulled through with the victory as Tyson Briggs scored one of two goals that led the team to a 2-0 victory over USN.

Following the USN game, the season was not finished for the Big Red. The C team challenged the B team to a game and definitely gave them a tough one. Despite the 4-1 loss, the team battled hard against a better skilled team. The C team dominated the first twenty minutes of the game with the ball on offense majority of the time and when the ball was in their half, quickly clearing it back into the offensive zone. Stamina was the killer for the C team as the B team was better conditioned to battle it out. A final push for a comeback led to the goal from Jack Capizzi, putting the Big Red on the board followed by the start of "spicy cheddar" chants coming from both players and coaches. Great shots from seventh-grader Hugh Graham throughout the game almost led to goals, but the Big Red came up just short. A fun, successful season was capped off for the Big Red C team with this intriguing and challenging matchup against the B team.

SPORTS

Novice Crew: Let the Races Begin!

By Will Weaver

The second half of the novice crew season went well as the team participated in four regattas, earning a medal in each regatta. A regatta is typically hosted by a rowing club in a city that can accommodate a 5K race. In the fall the races are 5000 meters, and in the spring the races are shorter sprints of 2000 meters. The hosting cities this fall were Chattanooga, Tennessee; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Augusta, GA. The rowers on the novice team are participating in crew for the first time. MBA has three novice boats, a four-man and two eight-man boats.



At the Secret City Regatta, in Oak Ridge, TN, our novice four got a silver medal. The novice eight boats rowed hard and learned from the experience.

The Head of the Hooch is an invitational regatta, meaning boats are invited to participate based on their times. MBA sent one novice boat to this regatta. It was a beautiful day in Chattanooga, and the oarsmen finished well. The boat got 28th with a time of 18:50.6 but competed well against tough competition at this regatta full of

the best.

At the Head of the South, in Augusta, Georgia, our novice four won a silver medal, and our first novice eight boat earned a bronze medal. The second novice boat earned 11th place after suffering a 30 second penalty for catching seven crabs. Catching a crab occurs when the oar gets stuck in the water and cannot be retrieved. Most crabs are relatively easy to fix, but some crabs require the entire boat to stop moving. A particularly violent crab can send an oarsman right out of the boat.

The novice oarsmen worked hard and learned a lot. They will continue to work on both land and water throughout the winter and come back strong for the sprint season in the spring of 2014. The novice oarsmen in the junior school are John Lang, Mac Roberts, and Will Weaver. The junior school coxswains for the varsity team include Evans Looney, Owen Hughes and Connor Krumm.

The MBA 2013 Rifle Classic

By Matthew Staggs

The MBA Rifle Classic is the largest high school rifle classic in the country. This year it was held on October 18th and 19th. It has been held every year at MBA for nineteen years in



the rifle range and in both of the gyms. This year there were more than 370 shooters from all across the country that came to the Classic. The shooters include both sporter and precision.

In rifle, shooters start as sporters and then move up to precision as they gain experience. Many of the sporters come to the Classic to get practice and experience. The precision shooters come for more experience, but they also come because the MBA Classic is one of the competitions that college coaches use to evaluate shooters. College coaches use the MBA Classic to find shooters they want on their teams. For many teams this is the first

tournament of the season.

The Classic is put on with help of many volunteers, parents, and coaches. The MBA Classic was featured on a TV show called *Shooting USA* on the Outdoor Channel. The show talked about how the Classic hosted a team from Boston in 2012 and a team that had been started six weeks before the Classic from Tennessee. The show also said that the MBA Classic is as good as some college and professional matches. The 2013 MBA precision squad consisted of Andrew Dupuis, Nathan Sharp, Dani Biegl, and Zach Wassinger who shot 578, 569, 575, and 566 respectively. The sporter squads also had a good showing for their first big tournament. The 2013 MBA Rifle Classic went very well this year, and it will continue to grow and get better.

BIG RED SPORTS

MBA Big Red Wrestling

By Doug Gaw

Year's Summary

This year the Big Red wrestlers had a very large turnout. The team had 58 wrestlers, and a lot of them were first year wrestlers very eager to learn the sport. Coach Philip Simpson, Coach Will McMurray, and Coach Joshua Smalls helped us train and condition. They taught us to give it everything we had during practice and in the classroom. They taught us never to give up when it gets tough and always to fight. While on the team we also made lifelong friendships that will last forever and learned to encourage one another always whether they win or lose. All of this hardwork and experience leads us up the road to the HVAC tournament.



The 2013 - 2014 Microbe Wrestling Team

Memorable Matches

1. MBA (47) vs. BGA (36)
2. MBA (28) vs. BA (48)

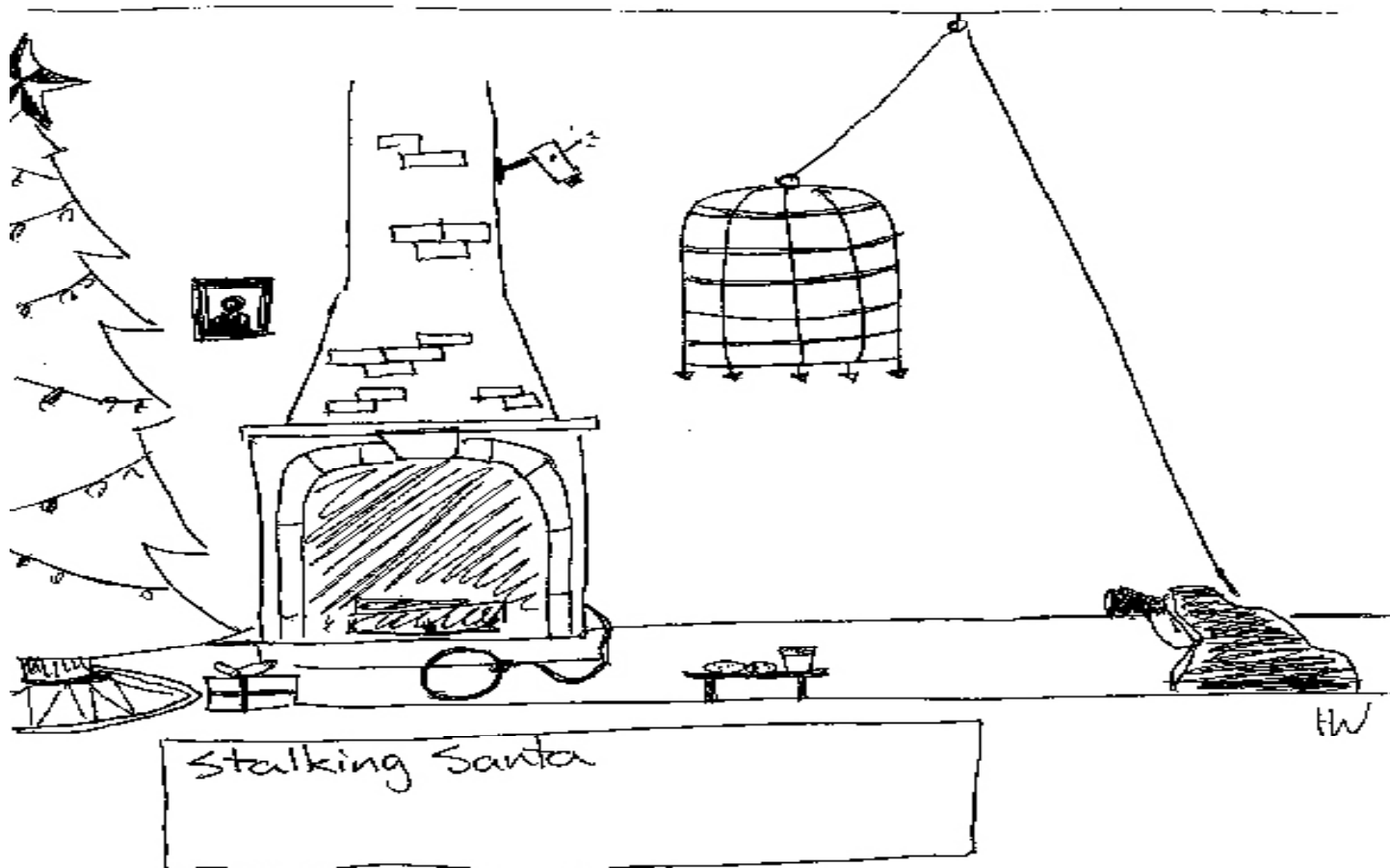
HVAC Tournament Results

MBA had a successful HVAC tournament coming in second place with 239 overall points, trailing the winner by six points.

- 75: Walker Conner (2nd place)
- 88: Jake Herbstreit (2nd place)
- 95: Thomas Bellet (1st place)
- 100: Ben Jablonski (4th place)
- 107: Jack Sullivan (5th place)
- 112: Jamison Russ (2nd place)
- 120: Franklin McKenzie (2nd place)
- 127: Clay Garstin (3rd place)
- 135: Brawner Smith (3rd place)
- 145: Harrison Graves (3rd place)
- 160: Rhys Rutherford (2nd place)
- 175: Charlie Buffkin (1st place)
- Heavyweight: Grant Ellison (2nd place)



THE BACK PAGE



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